



HQ AETC News Clips

Lackland AFB TX



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Wing at Lackland has plenty to read

By Vincent T. Davis

San Antonio Express-News

The members of the 433rd Airlift Wing will remember Becki Kinch and the 80 elementary school students from The Woodlands when they read.

Kinch, a library manager and development director at St. Anthony of Padua parochial school near Houston, led a book drive in late November to collect books for the reservists and their families.

"It was an absolute blessing," Kinch said. "It skyrocketed beyond what we thought it would."

Now Lt. Col. Mike Malone, Deployment Operations Group commander from the wing, plans to distribute the books to co-workers at overseas locations.

The idea for the drive began during National Children's Book Week, Nov. 17-23.

Kinch gave a donated 1960s Air Force manual to computer teacher Patty Torczynski for her son Aaron, an Air Force pilot.

Torczynski thought her son, who is deployed to the Middle East, would enjoy reading it in between flying missions. Another son, Jason, 27, a captain, is stationed at Fort Sill, Okla.

The idea sparked an effort to collect books for the military members.

It also was a chance to honor the military parents of several students. She was impressed that the parents, several who command squadrons and companies, take time to sit and read to her students.

Kinch enlisted third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students to collect books. The Chamber of Commerce, Barnes and Nobles and the city library helped by sending out advertising fliers.

On Nov. 29, Kinch, children and adult volunteers filled a moving van with more than 3,000 books.

Fourth-grader Jamey Jiminez, 11, scoured his attic for books with an aunt and two cousins. Jamey and two friends stacked hardcovers and paperbacks in shopping sacks.

"Some military families don't have time to read, but when they do they can read the books we donated," Jamey said.

Kinch offered the books to local ROTC units with little luck.

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Remembering that several family members trained at Lackland AFB, she extended the offer to 1st Lt. Bruce Hill Jr., Public Affairs Officer, at the 433rd Airlift Wing.

Hill accepted.

Stacey Lord, Scholastic Book Fair representative, matched the books collected with new books, boxing and delivering them to Lackland in December.

"We were determined to make sure that books get in all of their hands," Kinch said.

Hill, a Gulf War I veteran, said based on his long stretches away from home, he knows how it feels to know someone is thinking of you.

"Any time that a troop can receive a piece of home, whether it's a book or care package, it goes a very long way," Hill said. "It's definitely appreciated by the troops."



AETC Bases News Clips

KEESLER AFB, MS



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New F-22 fighter aids state economy

By **PATRICK PETERSON**
THE SUN HERALD

BILOXI - Much faster than a speeding bullet, less visible to radar than a bird, able to carry two 1,000-pound bombs, the F-22 Raptor also delivers a \$6 million economic impact in Mississippi.

Lockheed Martin officials showed off an F-22 flight simulator this week at a conference that attracted about 300 engineering educators to the Bayview Hotel at Grand Casino Biloxi. The device gave engineers the feel of flying the military's fastest, stealthiest and most lethal weapon, which makes warfare seem like a high-stakes video game.

"It's popular wherever we go," said former fighter pilot Dave McLelland, now a Lockheed engineer.

When the first F-22 fighter wing becomes active in December of 2005 at Langley Air Force base in Virginia, the planes will have vertical stabilizers (rudders) built at a Lockheed Martin plant in Meridian and hydraulic pumps built at Eaton Aerospace in Jackson.

The Air Force has received 21 of the 276 planes now ordered. If the military ups the order to a proposed 762 planes, Mississippi's economy would benefit more. The program has cost nearly \$5 billion so far.

Able to cruise at more than 1,000 mph, the F-22 combines speed, stealth technology, fuel efficiency and the ability to deliver big payloads. It will replace the F-15, which is 30 years old. Engineers designed the plane to be repaired with only six common tools.

Invisible to radar, the F-22 will likely destroy enemy pilots before they know it is around. No foreign government has a plane that can detect, much less destroy, the F-22.

"They don't have anything that would counter this," said McLelland. "Military test pilots say, 'It's everything I ever wanted in an airplane.'"

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AETC Bases News Clips

Sheppard AFB, TX



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06-Feb-04

Sheppard 'in good shape' heading into '05 closures

Angel Riggs

Times Record News

The F/A-22 Raptor fighter jet could leave stability rather than turbulence in its wake at Sheppard Air Force.

President Bush's 2005 budget requests \$22 million to place the next-generation F/A-22 Raptor training facility at Sheppard. Sheppard airmen would be trained how to arm the F/A-22 and get technical training on fixing and maintaining the aircraft.

Though the president's budget awaits approval, it's a good sign that Sheppard is being considered to receive major relocated programs in the next round of Base Realignment and

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Closures (BRAC).

"There is no one building or one program that guarantees the future of Sheppard," said U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon, referring to BRAC decisions. "But I do think when you add things up, as we've been trying to build new dorms over the years, we've added a variety of new facilities ... we are in as good a shape as we can possibly be in."

The F/A-22 training facility is "a significant step toward keeping Sheppard modernized and central to maintenance training in the Air Force," Thornberry said. The F/A-22 will emerge as the "premier" air-to-air fighter.

Of course as new technology comes in, it eventually replaces older equipment. The F/A-22 will ultimately replace the F-15 jet in the role of air-to-air superiority, Thornberry said. Don't look for F-15s to phase out anytime soon.

"We're going to have to continue to train people to work on F-15s for a while still," he said. "We're not just trading out one completely for the other."

The exact impact on local employment and spending — should the proposal pass — is not known. The make up of civilian and military employees who would potentially run the facility is also unclear.

"The fact that the Department of Defense is looking with favor upon Sheppard as a training facility for one of their most advanced planes is a great indicator of confidence in Sheppard and its personnel," Wichita

Falls Mayor Bill Altman said.

BRAC decisions not only affect bases that are downsized or closed, but can transfer programs to bases that stay open and expand.

"When BRAC decisions are made, the quality of the programs, the quality of the personnel and the community support are all important factors that the Air Force and the BRAC committee will be looking at to determine where to put displaced programs from facilities that are closed," Altman said.

Tim Chase, president of the Board of Commerce & Industry said that it's hard to project what impact the training facility would have on the local community, since Congress has yet to approve the president's budget.

However, he said that should the measure pass, construction would begin sometime in 2005, and training would likely ramp up in 2008. As far as employment, he suspected that there wouldn't be much of a shift up or down.

"Sheppard Air Force Base is the training center of choice for aircraft maintenance in the Air Force and as the technology and war fighting aircraft changes, some aircraft will be retired and new aircraft will come online. The F/A-22 Raptor is one of those new aircraft that is coming online," Chase said.

*Scripps Howard News Service
Washington Correspondent Tara
Copp contributed to this report.*

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AETC Bases News Clips

KEESLER AFB, MS



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Ricin likely the work of a kook, experts say

By SETH BORENSTEIN and SUMANA CHATTERJEE

WASHINGTON - The ricin sent to top government agencies, including the White House, is probably coming from inside the United States and from a homegrown criminal rather than foreign terrorists, investigators and outside experts believe.

"It does not bear the mark of an international terrorist attack," said an official at the Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"This is a criminal issue. It is not a weapon of mass destruction."

Meanwhile, the investigation has broadened beyond Washington to Chattanooga, Tenn. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said late Wednesday that tests are being conducted at a postal facility there for the presence of ricin.

He declined to elaborate.

Others, who wouldn't be quoted by name, hinted of fears of possible contamination from processing one of the letters.

Ricin-tainted letters sent earlier in the fall were signed by "Fallen Angel," who described himself as a U.S. business owner who had a gripe against a Department of Transportation rule that increased the amount of sleep required for truckers.

Now investigators are trying to see if ricin found Monday in Frist's mailroom is somehow connected to those earlier letters.

Hampering the investigation is that so far no letter or package that contained the powdery ricin has been found.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan acknowledged Wednesday that a ricin-laced letter was sent to the White House but intercepted in an off-site mail facility in November.

"The letter was deemed by public health officials not to be a public health threat," he said, so the White House kept its existence a secret to aid investigators.

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The first "Fallen Angel" letter was addressed to the Department of Transportation and found in a Greenville, S.C., post office on Oct. 15.

The author threatened to start "dumping" the poison if the trucking rule, which went into effect Jan. 4, wasn't stopped.

Ricin, a toxin that causes cell and organ failure, is made from easy-to-find castor beans, but experts say that, unlike anthrax, it can't cause mass casualties.

"It's not a big threat. It's the equivalent of mailing rat poison to somebody," said Randall Larsen, founder of Homeland Security Associates, a consulting firm in Alexandria, Va.

"This fits in the category of kook rather than terrorist."

The FBI, which handles criminal cases, is the lead agency investigating all three letters.

Biloxi Sun Herald
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Sheppard AFB, TX



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06-Feb-04

WICHITA FALLS

Sheppard recognized by EPA for efforts

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE — Sheppard Air Force Base was honored Tuesday with recognition for its PreKote process.

Kathleen Aisling, Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 representative, presented Sheppard with a waste minimization plaque for its PreKote process.

According to the EPA Web site, PreKote eliminates or reduces pollution and hazardous waste associated with aircraft painting. It also saves time and costs.

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AETC Bases News Clips

Sheppard AFB, TX



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F/A-22 specs

Primary function: Fighter, air-dominance

Wingspan: 44 feet, 6 inches

Length: 62 feet, 1 inch

Height: 16 feet, 5 inches

Powerplant: Two Pratt & Whitney F119-PW-100 engines capable of supercruise and thrust vectoring

Speed: Mach 1.8 (supercruise: Mach 1.5)

Armament: Two AIM-9 Sidewinders; six AIM-120C Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); one 20mm Gatling gun; and two, 1,000-pound Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM).

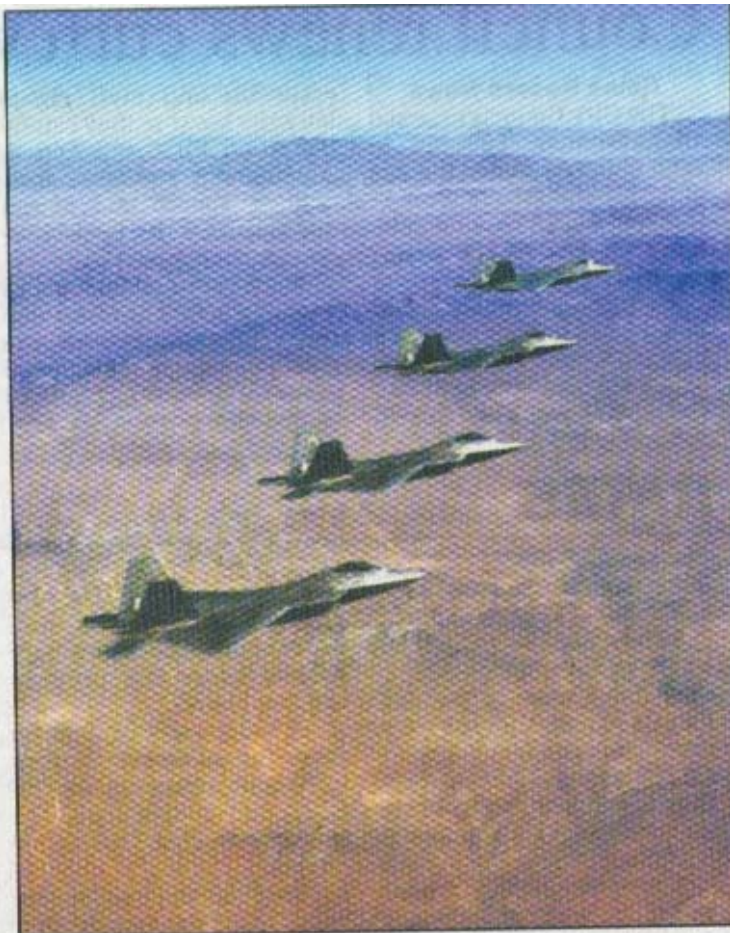
Crew: One

Builder: Boeing and Lockheed Martin Corp.

Major Subcontractors (partial list): Northrop Grumman, Texas Instruments, Kidde-Graviner Ltd., Allied-Signal Aerospace, Hughes Radar Systems, Harris, Fairchild Defense, GEC Avionics, Lockheed Sanders, Kaiser Electronics, Digital Equipment Corp., Rosemount Aerospace, Curtiss-Wright Flight Systems, Dowty Decoto, EDO Corp., Lear Astronics Corp., Parker-Hannifin Corp., Simmonds Precision, Sterer Engineering, TRW, XAR, Motorola, Hamilton Standard, Sanders/GE Joint Venture, Menasco Aerospace.

Personnel (approximate): USAF Program Office, 350; Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems, 1,000; Boeing, 1,500; Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems, 1,200; Pratt & Whitney, 1,700.

Courtesy: Official Web site of the U.S. Air Force, www.af.mil/lib/airpower/airpower_specs.shtml



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Four F/A-22 Raptors fly over the Mojave Desert during a test mission in this file photo. Sheppard Air Force Base officials found out Tuesday that part of the president's defense budget includes a request for \$22 million toward a F/A-22 training facility at the base.

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facilities in Fort Worth.

The facility also helps keep Sheppard on the cutting edge of the Air Force, said Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon.

"The F-22 will be the primary air-to-air fighter, so we have to train people on how to work on it," Thornberry

said. "This is what this facility will do."

Thornberry said the effort to locate the F/A-22 facility at Sheppard had been in the works for years, but "until you actually see it in the president's budget, you don't know for certain," he said.

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AETC Bases News Clips

Sheppard AFB, TX



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SAFB may get \$22 million Raptor training facility

Proposed funding for military construction

Below is a listing of the projects in President Bush's 2005 proposed budget for Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo and Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls.

Texas base/ Fiscal year	Project title	President's budget (in thousands)
Dyess AFB		
2004	Replace family housing (116 units)	\$19,973
2005	Replace family housing (127 units)	\$28,664
Goodfellow AFB		
2004	Fire training classroom facility	\$1,863
2004	Student dormitory (200 rooms)	\$18,107
2005	Construct MFH (127 units - family housing)	\$20,604
Sheppard AFB		
2004	Sheppard airfield operations complex	\$9,000
2004	Student dormitory (300 rooms)	\$28,590
2005	F-22 technical training facility	\$21,284
2005	Student dormitory (300 rooms)	\$29,000

Source: Department of Defense, 2005 Military Construction Budget

Tara Copp

Staff Writer
Times Record News Service

WASHINGTON — In the 2005 budget, Sheppard Air Force base scored a major coup through the president's request for \$22 million to locate the next-generation fighter jet F/A-22 Raptor training facility in Wichita Falls.

The funding took local Sheppard advocates by surprise; Wichita Falls' military affairs committee had hoped to get involved in the F/A-22 but had not been expecting the funding.

"It's super news for Sheppard, and obviously we'll be doing everything we can to get it through Congress," said Kay Yeager, chairwoman of Wichita Falls' Military Affairs Committee. "From my perspective, Sheppard is ideally suited to do this program. It has the largest technical training base in the Air Force,

and I think we have the space to do this, the personnel to do this and the training to do this, and we would love to see it come to Sheppard."

The \$22 million will pay for a training facility where Sheppard airmen will be trained how to arm the F/A-22 and get technical training on fixing and maintaining the aircraft. It's unlikely that F-22s will be flying at

Sheppard, but inside the training building will be a mock-up for Sheppard's students.

The F/A-22 is still in development, with deployment scheduled for 2005. It's a one-seater stealth fighter capable of Mach-2 speeds, and it has the ability to carry a load of six radar-guided, medium range missiles or two air-to-air missiles, two short-range heat-seeking missiles and two JDAMs (Joint Direct Attack Munitions), which are computer guided bombs fired at ground targets.

Boeing and Lockheed Martin share the estimated \$37 billion contract to build 339 F-22s for the Air Force; Lockheed is manufacturing its part of the contract at its

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Sonic boom



In this Air Force file photo, Lt. Col. Jeffery "Cobra" Harrigan, commander of the 43rd Fighter Squadron, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., flies the F/A-22 Raptor over Tyndall. The F/A-22 combines stealth, supercruise, maneuverability and other features enabling a first-look, first-shot, first-kill capability.

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